

**Homework Policy**

We define homework as any activity that pupils undertake outside of school lesson time, either on their own or with the support of family members. At Stokesay, we have a strong commitment to parental involvement and see homework as one way of developing this partnership.

**Why give homework?**

 It can inform parents about work going on in class;

 It can further stimulate enthusiasm for learning;

 It takes advantage of the home environment and resources and the chance for some one

to one adult time;

 It can be a great source for gathering topic information to share with all the children;

 It is a great opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts,

addition sums, spellings, handwriting and other key facts;

 It helps to foster good habits of organization and self-discipline in preparation for the

demands of Secondary School.

**Homework at our school**

Whilst we fully support the above key principles, equally Stokesay Primary School is not a school at which homework dominates home life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents’ imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and manageable for all concerned and that if it becomes a chore/burden/source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

We do not specify amounts of time that must be spent on every single task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Individual teachers are happy to give advice, and regularly do so.

We hope the children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; if they fail to complete the work, discussions and further support will take place. Discreet homework registers are kept and if a child consistently fails to complete and return tasks, this is discussed with the child and their parents.

**Our routines and expectations**

The date that each class sets and collects homework varies between classes, but is communicated clearly to children and parents at the start of the year.

The work will always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of classwork, or a maths games already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do i.e. parents are not expected to teach new skills.

Children have homework books and reading records, as well as online records for some activities (ie – My Maths).

The tasks set will not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for example, sharing results in class discussion, putting work onto a display or transferring work into class books.

**Broadly speaking, these are current expectations:**

**Nursery** – sharing books at home and participating in regular home/school activities (topic/theme based) with parental collaboration.

**Reception** – daily reading, learning key words (Bear Words) and participating in regular home/school activities (topic/theme based) with parental collaboration.

**Key Stage 1** – daily reading & spellings, daily times tables (Y2 only), plus one longer weekly piece of homework in a specific homework book (alternating between English/topic and Maths)

**Lower Key Stage 2**  – daily reading, spellings and times tables, plus one longer weekly task alternating between English/topic and maths

**Upper Key Stage 2** - daily reading, spellings and times tables, plus usually two longer weekly tasks, one for English/topic and one for Maths.

**OPTIONAL “CHALLENGE” HOMEWORK:** For each term/topic, staff in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 set **optional** challenge homework. These are an interesting mix of longer activities, linked to a range of curriculum subjects, designed to stimulate curiosity and broaden understanding of current topics. As many or as few of these as the children wish can be completed. Those who do complete them have their work shown and discussed in class to encourage others to choose to join in, and are also celebrated for doing so weekly in assembly. These activities can be completed by the children on their own, or equally as a lovely shared learning activity with their siblings or parents/carers/wider family.

**General**:

Occasionally extended projects running for a few weeks will be set, and the above expectations may change from time to time.  *(ie – to support those identified as children who would benefit from additional/different activities, or to stretch the more able)*

We expect children to maintain the same standards for presentation of homework as we set in school i.e. to use their best handwriting and a sharp pencil or black pen.

In nearly all occasions, formally set homework is marked and returned. In some cases, intervention sessions may be used to address any misconceptions.

A log of homework set and received is kept, with certificates, stickers and other rewards are used across school to motivate and reward.

As far as possible, homework will be related to class topics. This is important as it helps parents to know more about what is going on in class and to support enthusiasm for learning.

Parents might, for example, find themselves supporting research of Egyptian Gods, finding out about grandparents’ experience of school or measuring objects around the home. This also means that each child can pursue a set task at their own level of ability.

Increasingly teachers are using the web for homework. This may be directing children and

parents to play a specific online game/activity, or work on: ***My Maths***

**Over holidays, certain homework activities may well be given out to motivate children and keep them engaged in learning (ie – reading challenges).**

**What to do if you have concerns**

If you find the homework inappropriate for your child, if they lack interest, if it becomes a

battleground or if you are concerned that homework is given inconsistently please talk with your child’s teacher in the first instance.

If you still have concerns, please speak to the Headteacher

Homework Policy - reviewed April 2018